MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether any steps have been taken to remove that congestion?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the nature of the steps taken?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): May I know, Sir, whether these questions are in order?

PRESIDENT: No, the member's questions are not in order.

Places of public worship for Christians.

76. ✱ **MR. T. K. ALEXANDER** (*Kunnatnad I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permission to open places of public worship for the Christians needs the previous assent of the Devaswom Commissioner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Central Cocoanut Committee.

77. ✱**MR K. SANKARAN** (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the several steps that are being taken by the Ceylon Government to promote the welfare of the cocoanut cultivators and to protect the cocoanut industry in Ceylon;

(*b*) whether they have thought of any definite scheme by which the ruinous fate of the cocoanut cultivators of the State could be improved;

(*c*) what steps they have taken to protect Travancore cocoanut cultivators from the unhealthy competition from Ceylon; and

(*d*) whether they have thought of the advisability of appointing a Central Cocoanut Committee to advise the Government from time to time as to how to protect and promote the interests of the cocoanut cultivators of the State?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) They have already taken steps in that direction and have accordingly reduced the export duty on copra, cocoanuts, oil and punnac from 1-1-1110.

(*c*) Representations have been made to the Government of India to enhance the import duties and tariff values of cocoanuts, copra, cocoanut oil, coir-yarn and coir-fibre imported into British India from foreign countries.

(*d*) Yes. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been moved for the formation of a Central Cocoanut Committee on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee. The formation of a Cocoanut Committee in Travancore is also under the consideration of Government.

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